TOPS IN THRILLS—

A FAWCETT PUBLICATION

WHIZ COMICS

NO. 153
JAN.

10¢

CAPTAIN MARVEL
AND THE DEATH HORROR!

PLUS... IBIS THE INVINCIBLE, GOLDEN ARROW, LANCE O'CASEY

WHIZ COMICS

Executive Editor WILL LIEBERSON · Editor M. GAINES · Art Editor AL JAFFEE

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W. H. Fawcett Jr. President

CAPTAIN MARVEL and the DEATH HORROR

WHENEVER BILLY BATSON FAMOUS BOY NEWSCASTER, SAYS THE WORD **SHAZAM** HE IS MIRACULOUSLY CHANGED INTO POWERFUL CAPTAIN MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, WHO COMBINES IN HIS MAGNIFICENT PHYSIQUE THE POWERS OF SIX OF THE MIGHTIEST HEROES OF ALL TIME!

SOLOMON WISDOM
HERCULES STRENGTH
ATLAS STAMINA
ZEUS POWER
ACHILLES COURAGE
MERCURY SPEED

A GRIM FIGURE WALKS THE STREETS OF EARTH REAPING A HARVEST OF LIVES. AS TERROR DRAPES THE CITY, CAPTAIN MARVEL, STALKS AN UNCANNY FOE, FOR THE FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH THE DEATHLY HORROR.

YOUR NUMBER IS UP, CAPTAIN MARVEL! PREPARE TO DIE!

HOLY MOLEY!

BILLY BATSON BOY NEWSCASTER OF STATION WHIZ-TV, IS WALKING HOME LATE ONE NIGHT WHEN

DON'T MOVE! YOUR MONEY — OR YOUR LIFE.

HOLY MOLEY! SOUNDS LIKE A STICK UP TO ME

SHAZAM!

MAGIC LIGHTNING CRASHES DOWN AT THE ARCTIC WORD, CHANGING BILLY INTO HIS OTHER FORM OF—

BOOM!

MIGHTY CAPTAIN MARVEL, THE GREATEST CRIME CRUSHER OF MODERN TIMES

PAY UP! I SAY OR DIE!

I'LL GET THAT CROOK AND SHOW HIM WHO IS GOING TO PAY UP.

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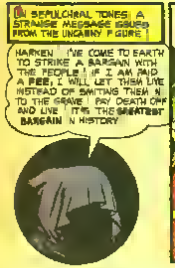
BUT AROUND THE CORNER IS AN ASTONISHING SCENE!
GIVE ME YOUR MONEY OR I WILL TAKE AWAY YOUR LIFE
HOLY MOLEY! FIRST TIME I EVER SAW A THUG DRESSED UP THAT WAY. WHAT A CRAZY COSTUME!

I AM NO ORD NARY PETTY THIEF! DON'T YOU RECOGN ZE ME? CAN'T YOU SEE WHO I AM?
DON'T TELL ME! LET ME GUESS! YOU ESCAPED FROM SOME TELEVISION HORROR PROGRAM!

CEASE FOOL! MOCK ME NOT FOR I AM THE GRIM REAPER! IN PLAIN WORDS I AM -- DEATH!
HO HUM, CHUM I GUESSED WRONG! YOU MUSTIVE ESCAPED FROM THE HOT HOUSE!

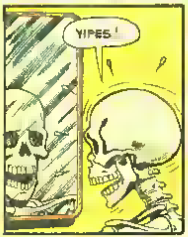
GHASTLY SIGHT STUNS CAPTAIN MARVEL!

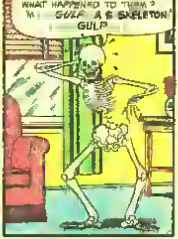

SEPULCHRAL TONES. A STRANGE MESSAGE ISSUED FROM THE UNEARTHLY FIGURE!
HARKEN! I'VE COME TO EARTH TO STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH THE PEOPLE! IF I AM PAID A FEE, I WILL LET THEM LIVE INSTEAD OF SMITHAS THEM N TO THE GRAVE! PAY DEATH OR AND LIVE! IT'S THE GREATEST BARGAIN IN HISTORY

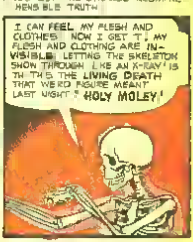
OH GOSH! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS RIDICULOUS ROT! YOU'RE JUST A CHEAP CROOK N DISGUISE! I'LL UNMASK YOU RIGHT NOW!
I WILL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE!

NOW I WILL GO!
I'LL HAVE TO LET HIM GO AND ATTEND TO THIS POOR GUY! HE'S FAINTED
AHHHHH
PLOP

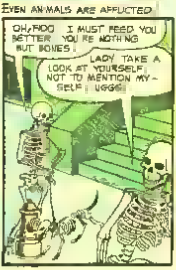
GRIM WORDS DRIFT BACK FROM THE WEIRD APPARITION AS IT FADES INTO THE NIGHT
TOMORROW THE WHOLE CITY WILL BE STRICKEN WITH THE LIVING DEATH! THEN WILL YOU ALL SCAMPER TO PAY MY FEE FAREWELL!
LIVING DEATH? WHAT DOES HE MEAN?


THE NEXT MORNING BILLY BATSON RECEIVES A SHOCK!
YIPES!

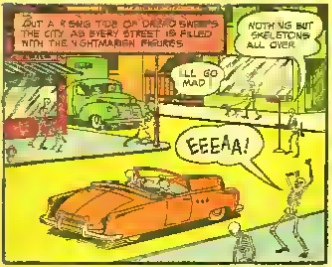

MY FLESH! MY CLOTHES! WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM? I'M A GULP! A SKELETON! GULP!


BUT BILLY CONQUERS WILD PANIC AND FINDS OUT THE STRANGE INCOMPREHENSIBLE TRUTH
I CAN FEEL MY FLESH AND CLOTHES! NOW I GET IT! MY FLESH AND CLOTHING ARE INVISIBLE! LETTING THE SKELETON SHOW THROUGH LIKE AN X-RAY! IS THIS THE LIVING DEATH THAT WEIRD FIGURE MEANT LAST NIGHT? HOLY MOLEY!

MEANWHILE TERROR STALKS THE WHOLE CITY! LIKEWISE STRICKEN BY THE WEIRD PHENOMENON
EEK!
EEEK!


EVEN ANIMALS ARE AFFLICTED!
OH, FROG I MUST FEED YOU BETTER! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT BONES!
LADY TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF! NOT TO MENTION MYSELF! UGGH!

BUT LOVE CONQUERS ALL
EVEN YOUR BONES ARE LOVELY SWEETHEART
OH, HUBERT! YOU SAY THE SWEETEST THINGS...


BUT A RISING TIDE OF UNDEAD SWEEPS THE CITY, AS EVERY STREET IS FILLED WITH THE NIGHTMARISH FIGURES
NOTHING BUT SKELETONS ALL OVER
I'LL GO MAD
EEEAA!

AT STATION WHIZ-TV CONFUSION REIGNS
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW CAN WE TELL EACH OTHER APART?
WE ALL LOOK ALIKE!

BILLY BATSON INSTITUTES A SEMBLANCE OF SANITY!
CALM DOWN, EVERYBODY! WEAR A SIGN LIKE MINE! DON'T LET THIS THING GET US DOWN—
I AM BILLY BATSON

SOON OVER TV, BILLY MAKES A RELUCTANT TELECAST!
GOSH—RIGHT NOW I WISH TELEVISION HAD NEVER BEEN INVENTED! MY UGLY SKELETON GETS TELECAST ALL OVER IT'S—ER—EM—BARRASSING. BUT I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE!
ATTENTION, FOLKS!
WHIZ TV
LAMB BROADCASTING

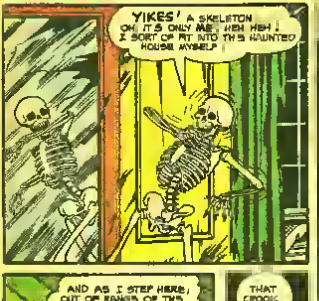
A WEIRD FIGURE APPEARED IN THE CITY LAST NIGHT SAYING HE WOULD CURSE US WITH LIVING DEATH! HE CLAIMED HE WAS DEATH HIMSELF AND—
YES AND HERE I AM—
I AM BILLY

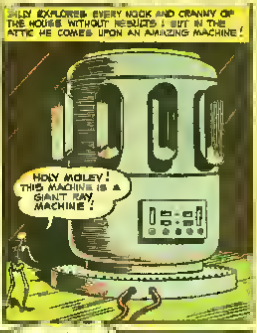
LET ME MAKE THIS BROADCAST!
OOF! SKELETON OR NOT, I CAN STILL SAY—
SHAZAM!

MAGIC LIGHTNING AGAIN CHANGES BILLY INTO CAPTAIN MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, WHO IS INVULNERABLE TO ALL DEATH-DEALING WEAPONS OR AFFLICTIONS!
BOOM!

TRY SHOVING ME AROUND, CHUM!
FOOL! DARE YOU ANGER ME? I WILL FORTHWITH SLAY YOU WITH MY SCYTHE OF DEATH

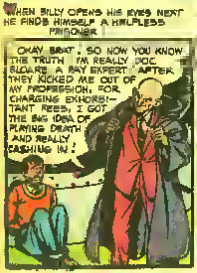
SORRY, I'M THE ONE GUY YOU CAN'T KILL EVEN IF YOU ARE THE GRIM REAPER!
CURSES! THAT'S RIGHT! I COULDN'T EVEN TURN YOU INTO A LIVING SKELETON LIKE THE REST!
BUT ALL OTHERS ARE HELPLESS IN MY HANDS! HARKEN ALL! FROM LIVING SKELETONS I CAN TURN YOU INTO DEAD CORPSES WITH ONE SWEEP OF MY SCYTHE
PAY MY FEE — OR ELSE!
AND I APPOINT YOU, CAPTAIN MARVEL TO FLY AROUND THE CITY AND COLLECT MY FEES!
ME? AAH! YOU'RE A PHONY! I'LL DO THIS TO YOU NEXT!
CRACK
BUT FATEFUL WORDS STOP CAPTAIN MARVEL
PHONY AM I? TOMORROW MORNING EVERYONE WILL BE DEAD -- UNLESS YOU COLLECT MY FEES! HOW CAN YOU TAKE A CHANCE WITH MILLIONS OF LIVES?
OLP! WH-WHAT IF HE'S THE REAL THING?
THE MOST AGONIZING DILEMMA OF HIS CAREER FACES THE BAFFLED HERO.
HOLY MOLEY. IS HE REALLY DEATH? I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT BUT I CAN'T FOLLOW HIM MYSELF! HE'D SPOT ME TOO EASILY! SO --
SHAZAM!
MAGIC LIGHTNING CHANGES CAPTAIN MARVEL BACK TO BILLY BATSON!
BOOM!
I'M JUST A SKELETON AMONG SKELETONS! I CAN FOLLOW HIM SAFELY!
THE WAY LEADS THROUGH WINDING STREETS AND BYWAYS TO AN EERIE OLD DESERTED HOUSE
GOLLY! IT LOOKS H-HAUNTED! JUST THE KIND OF PLACE DEATH WOULD LIVE IN!

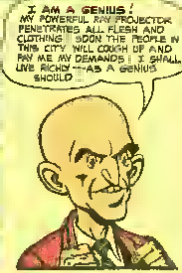

YIKES! A SKELETON OH! IT'S ONLY ME! HEH HEH! I SORT OF PUT INTO THIS HAUNTED HOUSE MYSELF!


BILLY EXPLORES EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THE HOUSE WITHOUT RESULTS! BUT IN THE ATTIC HE COMES UPON AN AMAZING MACHINE!
HOLY MOLEY! THIS MACHINE IS A GIANT RAY MACHINE!

AND AS I STEP HERE, OUT OF RANKS OF THE RAYS, I TURN SOLID AGAIN. THEN THIS WASN'T A MAGIC CURSE AT ALL BUT A SCIENTIFIC TRICK!

THAT CROOK WON'T DEATH AT ALL-- URKK!
SNOOPING BRAT! GOT YOU!
CLUNK!


WHEN BILLY OPENS HIS EYES NEXT HE FINDS HIMSELF A HELPLESS PRISONER
OKAY BRAT, SO NOW YOU KNOW THE TRUTH. I'M REALLY DOC BLOUNT, A RAY EXPERT. AFTER THEY KICKED ME OUT OF MY PROFESSION, FOR CHARGING EXHORBITANT FEES, I GOT THE BIG IDEA OF PLAYING DEATH AND REALLY CASHING IN!


I AM A GENIUS! MY POWERFUL RAY PROJECTOR PENETRATES ALL FLESH AND CLOTHING! SOON THE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY WILL COUGH UP AND PAY ME MY DEMANDS! I SHALL LIVE RICHLY AS A GENIUS SHOULD

I'M A FAKE A CROOK! BUT AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED I'M REALLY DEATH! FOR NOW YOU'LL DIE! WATCH ME USE THIS SPECIAL RAY MIRROR!

IT CONCENTRATES THE RAYS FROM THE TWINS WHICH WE IN AN INTENSE BEAM, WHICH WILL BURN YOU INTO A CINDER ? FEEL IT ?
OHKH!
BILLY SQUIRMS IN AGONY AS THE POWERFUL RAYS BITE INTO HIS SKIN WITH FLAMING INTENSITY!
GROANNNN! I-I'M GOING TO PASS OUT!
BUT THE BRAVE BOY GRITS HIS TEETH TO KEEP FROM BLACKING OUT, FOR HE KNOWS THERE IS ONE DESPERATE HOPE!
THE INTENSE RAYS ARE PENETRATING AND WEAKENING MY GAS! IN ANOTHER MOMENT THE CLOTH WILL BURN...
SHAZAM!
THIS OUGHT TO RATTLE EVERY BONE IN YOUR SKELETON!
KAPOW!
FAITHFULLY, MAGIC LIGHTNING THUNDERS DOWN, GIVING BILLY HIS OTHER INVULNERABLE FORM OF CAPTAIN MARVEL!
BOOM!
USING HIS FEARLESS POWER, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL SMASHES THE GIANT MACHINE!
WITH THE RAYS STOPPED EVERYONE IN THE CITY WILL BE RESTORED TO NORMAL NOW!
SMASH
YAYYYY! WE'RE NOT UNDER SKELETONS ANY MORE!
THAT ENDS THE SCARE—AND YOUR RACKET, DOC BUGARE! CRIMTIME TAKES A HOLIDAY NOW—IN JAIL!
LATER ... OVER WHIZ—TV ...
YES FOLKS, WE CAN ALL LOOK IN OUR MIRRORS AGAIN—AND LIKE IT! I GUESS YOU CAN CALL CAPTAIN MARVEL A SORT OF REAL-TOO! THE CRIME REAPER, HE IS DEATH TO ALL CRIME
FULLY FADE OUT